

Application No. 09/664,969
Amendment Dated October 25, 2005
In Reply to Office Action dated April 25, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-52 are pending.

Claims 1-52 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 17, 21-24, 37, 38 and 41 have been amended.

Claims 1-52 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 1, because of minor informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1 accordingly and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lloyd (U.S. Patent No. 6,779,178). In paragraph 7 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 33, 23, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lloyd in view of Kara (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,695). In paragraph 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lloyd and Kara, further in view of Lake et al. (GB 2,255,625A). In paragraph 21 of the Office Action, claims 24-31 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth for claims 4-11 respectively. In paragraph 29, claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lloyd, Kara and Lake, further in view of Schoenberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,417). In paragraph 33 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 32-35 for the same reasons set forth for claims 12-15 respectively. In paragraph 38 of the Office Action, claims 17-20 and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lloyd in view of Kara. In paragraph 46 of the Office Action, claims 41-50 are rejected under 35

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U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lloyd in view of Kara and further in view of Lake.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertions and respectfully submit the following remarks in response.

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 is directed to a system comprising a means for receiving various types of information from a plurality of corresponding sources of the information via facsimile devices. The facsimile devices are configured to transmit a facsimile image of a document containing the various types of information along with a separate facsimile form having a coded information thereon, where the coded information used to associate the document with an account.

A means for communicating with an interactive user device is provided. A processor is coupled to the interactive user device via Internet and to the facsimile devices via a public-switched telephone network. The processor is further configured to receive from the facsimile devices a transmission of the facsimile image of the documents and the separate facsimile form. The processor is configured to store the facsimile image of the document in a database location relating to the account associated with the coded information on the separate facsimile form and to provide to an authorized user of the interactive user device, upon request at any time, access to the facsimile image of the document.

Independent claims 17, 21, 37 and 41 also each maintain at least the feature that various types of information are being stored to the same account.

In this arrangement the present invention provides a means for a patient to efficiently and safely maintain numerous medical files in a central location, for easy retrieval by them and their physicians at a later time. To this end, the present invention provides a system for accepting

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medical or other such records from a plurality of providers, such as different medical offices, and storing that information in a centralized arrangement. Using an account coded cover page, each of the various records from the different locations can all be readily identified by the system and associated with the correct account.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1 and 21, the Lloyd reference teaches a means for attaching a longhand signature to e-mails or other electronic files. In Lloyd a user signs a barcoded form in longhand and faxes the form to a central database. The signature is then scanned in and associated with the bar code file. Later when a user desires to send an e-mail or generate some other electronic file with their longhand signature attached, they can retrieve their stored scanned signature using the bar code and attach the signature file to the e-mail.

However, the Lloyd reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 21. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Lloyd for receiving various types of information from a plurality of corresponding sources of the information via facsimile devices, where the facsimile devices are configured to transmit a facsimile image of a document containing the various types of information along with a separate facsimile form having a coded information thereon, the coded information being used to associate the document with an account.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 21 in view of the Lloyd reference be withdrawn. Furthermore, as claims 2-16 and 22-36 depend

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from claims 1 and 21 respectively, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the same reason.

Turning now to the rejection of independent claims 17 and 37, the Examiner has combined the Kara reference with the previously discussed Lloyd reference. Kara, as discussed in the previous Amendment, teaches a system for transmitting coded medical data to a central computer filing system, where the data can be accessed at a later date by other users. In the Kara system, original data is first generated and then encoded prior to transmission to the central system, requiring a scanner and encoding software at the records origin location. As explained in lines 48-62 of column 4, Kara requires that the original document 100A be converted into an encoded document 100B so that it is "suitable for transmission to and subsequent input into a centralized processor based system such as PC 120."

As such, neither the Lloyd nor the Kara reference either alone or in combination with one another teach the present invention as claimed. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in either Kara or Lloyd that disclose a processor configured to receive from facsimile devices a transmission of a facsimile image of documents containing various types of information, where each set of the documents are sent along with a separate facsimile form having a coded information thereon, the coded information used to associate each set of the documents with an account.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 17 and 37 in view of the Lloyd and Kara references be withdrawn. Furthermore, as claims 18-20 and 38-40 depend from claims 17 and 37 respectively, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the same reason.

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Finally, regarding the rejection of independent claim 41, the Examiner has simply added the recitation of the Lake reference to the Kara and Lloyd reference to support his argument regarding the use of facsimile transmission sheets. However, as explained above neither Kara nor Lloyd teach or suggest a processor configured to receive from facsimile devices a transmission of a facsimile image of documents containing various types of information, where each set of the documents are sent along with a separate facsimile form having a coded information thereon, the coded information used to associate each set of the documents with an account.

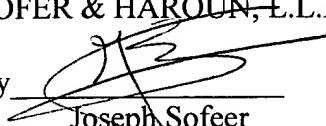
Thus, for the same reasons set forth above regarding claims 21 and 37, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 41 be withdrawn. Furthermore, as claims 42-50 depend from claim 41 the rejection of those claims should be withdrawn for the same reason.

In view of the foregoing Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-52 are now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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